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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/777,357	02/12/2004	Scott Stephen Duesterhoeft	17920 (AT20958-1028)	5084

7590 10/21/2004
Michael J. Aronoff
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CHAU N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2831

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/777,357

Applicant(s)

DUESTERHOEFT ET AL.

Examiner

Chau N Nguyen

Art Unit

2831

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Species I, Figures 1-6 in the reply filed on Aug. 18th 2004 is acknowledged.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 7, [0029], reference numeral "154" are used for both "linking strip" and "carrier strip". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1 and 7 are objected to because of the following informalities: in claim 1, line 4, change "direction" to --dimension--, and in claim 7, line 2, change "a wire" to --said conductor--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Golden (3,480,723).

Golden discloses a contact (Figure 9) comprising a body (30) having a longitudinal dimension and a transverse dimension, the body defining a first channel being configured to receive a conductor (not shown in Figure 9) extending along the longitudinal dimension, a second channel configured to receive a conductor extending along the transverse dimension, and at least one a lance (24) in each of the first and second channels to secure the respective conductors thereto (re claim 1). Golden also discloses one of the first and second channels comprising at least one pair of lances at opposed ends thereof (re claim 2), the tooth (25) being configured to pierce and retain the conductor received in the respective channel (re claim 3), one of the first and second channels comprising at least two teeth extending therefrom (re claim 4), the body having at least one opening divided by a rib (the openings between the ribs 21) integral to the body and the tooth extending from the rib (re claim 5), the first and second channels being substantially perpendicular to one another (re claim 6), the tooth being configured for crimping the conductor disposed along the longitudinal dimension (re claim 7), lances

located at each opposite end of the body, the lances being spaced apart to define a first channel along the longitudinal dimension, the first channel being configured to receive a first wire, and a plurality of teeth (25) extending from the body, the teeth being located along the transverse dimension, the teeth spaced apart to define the second channel along the transverse dimension for receiving the second wire (re claim 8), the lances extending substantially perpendicular from the body (re claim 9), the teeth extending substantially perpendicular from the body (re claim 10), at least one lance (34) being offset from another lance with respect to the transverse dimension (re claim 11), the lances being crimped around the first wire to surround the first wire (re claim 12), the first wire being an insulated wire, wherein the lances are crimped in staple-like manner around the first wire (re claim 13), the second wire comprising an insulated wire, the teeth including at least one tooth for piercing the second wire (re claim 14), the teeth including at least one tooth for crimping the second wire (re claim 15), the teeth including at least two crimping teeth and one piercing tooth (re claim 16).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golden.

Golden discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for the first and second wires being fabricated from different materials. However, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use different materials for the first and second wires of Golden to meet the specific use of the resulting connection since a connection between wires with different materials is known in the art.

9. Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golden in view of Leaf et al. (4,074,065).

Golden discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for a carrier strip where a plurality of contacts are attached. Leaf et al. discloses a contact assembly comprising a carrier strip (14) where a plurality of contacts (10) are attached. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to apply the teaching of Leaf et al. in the contact of Golden to provide a contact assembly with a plurality of contacts for multiple connection purposes.

Cited Art

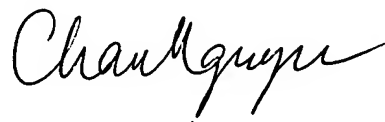
10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tennant and Bendrick disclose contacts having lances and teeth.

Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau N Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-1980. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Chau N Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2831